

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method comprising:

at a network access device communicably coupled to a host network, sensing a user device coupled to a port of the network access device;

determining, by the network access device, if the user device supports a user authentication protocol used by the host network, the determining comprising polling the user device for the user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device; and

placing, by the network access device, the port into a semi-authorized access state if the determining indicates that the user device does not support the user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the placing comprises selectively placing the port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the placing comprises:
 - determining a type of the user device; and
 - selectively placing the port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the type of the user device.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the selectively placing comprises selectively placing the port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the selectively placing comprises selectively placing the port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising the Internet if the user device is a portable computing device.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the network access device comprises a network switch.
11. (Previously Presented) A network access device comprising:
 - a plurality of input ports;
 - a plurality of output ports;
 - a switching fabric for routing data received on the plurality of input ports to at least one of the plurality of output ports; and

control logic adapted to determine, by the network access device, whether a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports supports a user authentication protocol used by a host network, and to place, by the network access device, the one of the input ports in a semi-authorized access state if the determination indicates the authentication protocol is not supported, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access, the determining comprising polling the user device for the user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the control logic is adapted to selectively place the one of the input ports into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 15, wherein the control logic is adapted to determine a type of the user device and to selectively place the one of the input ports into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the type of the user device.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the control logic is adapted to selectively place the one of the input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network.
18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the control logic is adapted to selectively place the one of the input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising the Internet if the user device is a portable computing device.
19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 11, wherein the user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.
20. (Previously Presented) A network system, comprising:
 - a host network that uses a user authentication protocol;
 - a network access device communicatively coupled to the host network; and
 - a user device coupled to a port of the network access device;wherein the network access device is adapted to:
 - determine whether the user device supports the user authentication protocol; and
 - place the port in a semi-authorized access state if the determination indicates the user authentication protocol is not supported, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access, the determining comprising polling the user device for the user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device.

21. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low-security virtual local area network (VLAN).

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein the network access device is adapted to selectively place the port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states.

25. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 24, where the network access device is adapted to determine a type of the user device and to selectively place the port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the type of the user device.

26. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 25, wherein the network access device is adapted to selectively place the port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network.

27. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 25, wherein the network access device is adapted to selectively place the port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the user device to a network comprising the Internet if the user device is a portable computing device.

28. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein the user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.

29. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 20, wherein the network access device is a network switch.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;
means for determining, by the network access device, if the user device supports a user authentication protocol used by the host network, the determining comprising polling the user device for the user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device; and
means for placing, by the network access device, the port into a semi-authorized access state if the determining indicates that the user device does not support the user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access.

32. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method comprising:
at a network access device communicably coupled to a host network, sensing a user device coupled to a port of the network access device; and
at the network access device, allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate

using a particular user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing further user authentication in accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication protocol.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

36. (Currently Amended) A network access device comprising:

a memory;

a plurality of input ports;

a plurality of output ports communicably coupled to a host network;

a switching fabric for routing data received on the plurality of input ports to at least one of the plurality of output ports; and

control logic at the network access device configured to: ~~allow the user device limited access to a network if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device sense a user device coupled to one of the input ports;~~

determine if the user device supports a user authentication protocol used by the host network, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device; and
place the port into a semi-authorized access state if the determination indicates that the user device does not support the user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access.

37. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the control logic is further configured to perform further user authentication in accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.

38. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication protocol.

39. (Previously Presented) The network access device of claim 38 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory;

means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of the apparatus, the apparatus communicably coupled to a host network; and

means for determining if the user device supports a user authentication protocol used by the host network, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device; and

means for placing the port into a semi-authorized access state if the determining indicates that the user device does not support the user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access means at the network access device for allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol, the user authentication protocol comprising a protocol to validate the identity of a user of the user device.